COPIES OF THE INSOLENT, CRVELL, BARBAROVS,

and blasphemous Letter lately written by the Great Turke, for denouncing of Warre against the King of

AND

Of the Magnanimous, and most Christian Answere made by the said King thereunto.

With a short Preface, declaring the vniust Cause on which this Turkish Tyrant, and faithlesse enemy of Christendome, now layeth hold to inuade it.

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Prof. A. E. Coolidge



THE PREFACE.



Bout the Yeere, 1608. Ieremy, Prince of Molda-uia dying, left 3. Sonnes, Constantine, Alexander, and Bougdan, the eldest of which be-

ing but 8. yeeres old, the Gouernment, during his Minority, was by the deceased Father committed to his Vncle Simeon, who dying within three or foure yeeres after, Constantine the eldest sonne, according to his right, and supported by the Councell of his mother, vndertooke the gouernment. At which time there liued at Constantinople, one Tomsho or Stephen, who fallly pretending to bee sonne vnto Aron, who had been Prince of Moldauia before Ieremy, had by money and other sinister practices, framed

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to his ends, Mehemet Bassba, Lieutenantto the grand Vifier (which is the highest Officer vnder the Turk) and by fallly suggesting that Constantine refused to pay the yeerely tribute of forty thousand Chequines to the great Turke, obtained from him an Army of 20000 men vnder the conduct of a Turkish Generall, to expell Prince Constantine, and establish himselfe in the gouernment. And notwithstanding Constantine endeuored to give all due fatisfaction to this Turkish Generall, and made euident the fraud and fallhood of Tom/bo, yet hee being also corrupted by Tomsho's bribes and great promises, would admit no reason. Wherevpon Prince Constantine making head to defend himselfe and Country, was in a Battaile ouercome, taken prisoner, and after, feeking to escape, drowned in the River Niestre. Tomsbo, after this victory, being thrustinto the Gouernnment, & indevoring to keepe by tyranny, what he had gotten by iniustice and vsurpation, the Nobility attempted by armes to free themselues and their Country from his vnspeakable cruelties, but with successe vnworthy their ver-

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tue; for, by an ouerthrow, both his malice, and the Countries misery increased. In which disaster, the greatest part of them fly into Poland, the refuge of the vnfortunate Princesse with her remaining children, and the Tribunall from which their country was in iustice to expect a Gouernour: the Polonians having by ancient Articles, and capitulations betweene the Turke and them, to the end their Kingdome might not be prejudiced by that neighbour Prouince, which though Christian, was yet tributary to the Turk, referred to themselves the right and interest to name a Vained, or Prince ouer that Country. And to this purpose the King of Poland fent an Embassadour to Constantinople, whom the Great Turke, contrary, to the Law of Nations, Turkishly answered by detaining him prisoner, and euer since hath threatened that most Noble, and Christian Kingdome, with vtter subuersion, hauing (as it is probably conceiued) to that end drawne all his forces out of Afia, and made a greater leuy in Europe, then hath beene knowne in that Empire, confisting (by report)

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port) of foure hundred thousand men; an Armie sufficient to satisfie the most couetous, or religious Christian Souldier with riches, or glory.



Soltan



GREAT TVRKES

LETTER:

Sultan Achmat



os T puisant, and highest Emperour of the Turkes, King aboue all Kings that dwell woon the Earth, a King that dwelleth on the earthly Paradise, an an-

ointed Prince, and Sonne of Mahomet, Prior of the earthly Paradise, and keeper of the Graue of thy God, Lord of the Tree of Life, and of the River Flisky, Conquerour of the Macedonians, the seede of Great Alexander, Prince of the Kingdomes of Tartary, Mesopotamia, Media, and of the Martiall Georgians, Anatolia, Bythinia, Asia, Armenia, Seruia, Thracia, Morea, Valachia, Moldauia, and of all warlike Hungary, Soueraigne Lord and Romand

Commander of all Greece, Persia, both the A. rabia's, the most Noble Kingdome of Agypt, Tremisen, and African Empire, of Trabezond, and the most glorious Constantinople, Lord of all the white and blacke Sea, and of the holy Cities Mecha, and Medina, shining with divine glory, Commander of all things that are to bee commanded, and the strongest and mightiest Champion of the wide world, a warriour appointed by Heauen in the edge of the sword, a great persecuter of bis enemies, and of all their euill vices, a most perfect lewell of the bleffed Tree, the chiefest keeper of the Crucified God, a Prince and Lord in whom the Mahometans trust, and a great persecuter of of all Christians; To Sigismund King of Poland, if thou doest desire Our welfare, and art Friend to vs and Our Officer Lieutenant Generall of all our forces which we will send, Our Greeting. But thou hast long since broken Our friendship, and yet art neither ready nor fit to wage Warre, or fight battell against vs. But thou hast some secret advice and intelligence with other confederate petty Kings, and their Counsellors, to deliver thee out of Our hands, and our Vicegerents power, wherein thou bast done conaduisedly,

adulfedly, and indifcreetly. If therfore thou thus perseuere to oppose thy selfe against vs, then feare, for thy death, and the death of all thy people is determined. Wee tell thee, Wee will ouercome thee, from the rifing of the Sun, to the going downe thereof, and we will hew Our Maiesty in our own person and fight, onto the ottermost parts of the earth; Our very thoughts Shall be a terrour runto thee, shewing that Wee will performe all that which Wee have herein denounced. And Wee will make knowne onto thee the powerfulnesse of our Dominions. And thou, O King, which puttest thy trust in strong Forts & Castles, Shalt have experience of Our refiftlesse might. I will roote thee out altogether, and thou shalt behold this with thine owne eyes. Wherefore expect now no more friendship at my hands; put not thy hope in the strength of thy walles, with thy owne forces and people. will ruinate thee without any refistance. I will destroy thy Cracouia, in signe of triumph, I will leave there my bloudy sword, that every one shall take notice thereof, and my beliefe shall bee (pread throughout all thy Dominions, and I will vetterly roote out the very remembrance of thy Crucified God. Let thy God bee angry, I B 2 care

care not; He may then helpe thee. Thy anointed (the Priests) I will surely put to the plague; Wolues and wilde Beasts shall sucke the brests of thy Women; thou shalt leave and for sake thy Religion which thou now hast; that which remaineth of all things, shall bee consumed with fire. Herewith rest thou satisfied; I doe not tell thee now what I will doe, or meane to doe with thee; understand if thou wilt, or canst.

Giuen at Our most High Port of Constantinople most strongly guarded, &c.



KING OF, POLAND HIS ANSVVERE.

the grace of God King of Poland, Great Duke of Lithuania, Rusia, Prusia, Ma(ouia, Samogitia, Liuonia,

Gothes, and Vandales, one of the most humble servants of the True God, and of his Sonne IESVS CHRIST Crucified, to Achmat chiefe Prince of Turkes, & Insidels, soules health. We have received thy Letter, full fraught with threats, and swolne with impieties against the Maiestie of the most Ba High

High God, whereunto wee had not vouchsafed answere, but that wee were perswaded, our silence would have been a meanes of causing thee to flatter thy selfe so much the more, else had Wee neglected thee like an Arch-enemy of God, as thou art. Wee have therefore thought fit in some fort to regard the Saluation of thy foule, giuing thee to know, that thou art no other then a meere man, in thy person more weake then many of thy followers; which fhould cause thee to remember, that if it had not pleased God to ingrave in the front of fuch as rule, a kinde of awfull Maiestie, whereby their subjects are kept in obedience; the good by reward, the euill and peruerse by rigorous Lawes, and both the one and the other by Authoritie; it were impossible they should continue eminent aboue others. Thou then, who in thy selfe art but as other men, must know, that there is a Supreme Power of more might then thine, which doth vphold thy estate, causing thee to bee respected by thy followers. This power proceeds from God most

most Good, most Iust, most Mighty, who preserueth it so long as Princes humble themselves before him; but if they suffer themselues to bee transported with prefumption, and pride, he eafily abateth, and corrects their fury. I will offer no other example to thy confideration, then that of Baiazet the first, one of thy Predecessors, who thinking to scale Heauen with his Armie (which in the judgement of Man was vnresistable, but in Gods sight most contemptible) lived to see himselfe vanquished, taken, and imprisoned, coopt vp in an iron cage, (wherein hee vvas in triumph drawne after the victorious Conquerour, feruing him for no better then a footftoole) and having no other food, then fuch as was cast him (like a Dogge) from his Table.

Thinke then with thy selfe, that hee that was so great, so puissant, and so terrible, may haply by right of Succession haue left vnto thee (as beeing descended from him) the like, or worse fortune, if thou shalt dare to continue thy blasphemies against GoD, and his Beloued Sonne Iesus Christ

Christ Crucified. Thou doest mistake in thinking to lay an afperfion vpon vs, by reproaching vnto vs the Crosse. For Wee account it Our chiefest honour, and glory; by vertue vyhereof, as the Emperour Constantine quelled his enemies, Wee hope, and affure our selves to bee defended against thy Fury. Thy proud, and thundering words difmay vs not, our courage is more Masculine and generous, then so to bee out-braued. For know, that wee regard not thy threats, but with iust scorne tread vpon thy pride, and laugh at thy idle terrours, and in stead of thanking thee for aduertifing vs before thy comming, We bid thee come when thou wilt, thou shalt bee received contrary to thy expectation. Wee haue steepe Mountaines, and impregnable Rockes that shall barre thee from entering into our Lands. Thou shalt finde our Cities, and Castles well furnished with Munition, our Canons mouthes breathing furious fires, our courages inuincible, our blades eager and sharpe, our bodies, as our mindes, prepared to sultaine the violence of

all fealons, our hearts promiting nothing but victory. And to dazell thine eyes, the glorious Standard of the bleffed Crofeshall goe before vs; but aboue all, the Crucified Son of the most High God shal cause his Angels to conduct vs, and give vs the victory; He it is shall bee our Leader, under whose protection wee will not feare to braue thee at thy Gates. Thy miscreant troupes shall be troden vnder foote, and their bellies trampled on, and by a happy victory (if thou chance to escape our conquering Arme) thou shalt finde thy selfe pursued vnto the most secret Dens of thy abominable Seralio; thou shalt see thy Mosques laid levell with the ground, thy Muphty, and other the execrable Priests of thy perfidious Mabomet made Gally-flaues; all those traiterous run-a-gates whom thou doest harbor, shalt thou see put to exquisite torments; of all which be most assured. And then shall bee fet free all those poore and miserable Christians, who now lie groning under the burthen of thy Tyrannous yoake, whose wofull cryes being mounted to Heauen, haue iustly

inftly excited the vengeance of God voon thee, who hath permitted thee to rife to this height of pride, that thy ruine & destruction may bee the more exemplar vnto afterages. To conclude, thou shalt see the service of God re-established in Greece and Aha, which thou doest now vniustly vsurpe. But if it happen thee to end thy miserable life in Battell, (which we hope God will grant) be confident, that all the foresaid vengeance shall ensue vpon thy death; And whiles thy wretched Soule lies broiling in the quenchlesse flames of Hell, wee will lift vp our cheerefull voices, and, for the victory obtained ouer thee and thine, fing praifes vnto our God: to whom be all glory for euer.

Know then, O Infidell, that we feare thee not at all, and if thou beeft not wilfully bent to runne headlong vnto thy owne defruction, be aduised; content, and containe thy selfe within those bounds thou doest at this present vsurpe, and if thou hast any beliefe at al that thy thrice reuerenced Prophet Mahomet could tell a truth, or foretell surve euents, then call to minde, that of those thousand

thousand yeeres which hee prescribed for the continuing of thy Sect, there remaine not about sixe or seuen yeeres. This then is the time that the yet vnsheathed Sword of the Christians affords for thy amendment, that thou mightest come to the knowledge of the alone True God, to worship him in his Sonne Iesvs Christ, wherevnto we once more exhort thee, omitting all other salutation, and commendation.

Given at our Castle of Posnwich, &c.

SIGISMVND.

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